

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

Starlight and Storm

"In Today's World very little remains that is real. Night has been banished, so have the cold, the wind, and the stars. They have all been neutralized: the rhythm of life itself is obscured"

--Gaston Rebuffat

The Eyes of the World Are on GMOs

OREGON's 13-member GMO task force on GMO agriculture has formed their meet-up group. Last Autumn Governor Kitzhaber intended for the OREGON Department of Agriculture (ODA) to map where GMO and GMO-free crops are located in the state. The Governor wants to know the ODA's action plan in order to introduce GMO labeling legislation in 2015, when the he is up for re-election. The group is starting to convene.

(Source: April 11, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Kitzhaber Wants GMO Panel to Focus Conversation" by Steven Dubois, The Associated Press, PORTLAND)

AMERICA's Watershed Moment

This is a watershed moment for AMERICA because Gary Martin, President of the North American Export Grain Association, is actually calling on the big seed companies to fully bear the risks and liabilities from selling their GMO seed products. The North American Export Grain Association has decided to object that GMO seeds were introduced with genetics that had NOT secured approvals in major markets. That's a big one, isn't it.

The National Grain and Feed Association asserts that rejected GMO corn shipments are nearly 1.45 million metric tons, costing the United States of America's grain companies \$427 million in lost sales in corn and related products. That settles the question of what does it cost if you don't ban the GMO crops. Soybean prices are also affected. The report claims hundreds of millions of dollars in losses for U.S. farmers due to rejected shipments.

DUPONT COMPANY, MONSANTO COMPANY, and SYNGENTA AG aligned with CARGILL and ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND COMPANY traders who embraced farmers' use of GMO seeds, introduced in 1996. As a result, in the U.S. Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds are used for 90% of corn crops.

CHINA began restricting shipments of U.S. corn in November, 2013, after tests found some AMERICAN cargoes contained AGRISURE VIPTERA, a genetically engineered SYNGENTA AG strain with Genetic Modification Organisms (GMO) unapproved by Beijing.

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CHINA is being very dramatic as the canary in the coal mine messaging to AMERICA that there IS international discord over GMO seeds that cause increased use of chemicals and could pose health concerns.

The *North American Export Grain Association* traders called upon SYNGENTA AG to discontinue selling such products to U.S. farmers. But just listen to this, instead of caring about the liability concerns of AMERICA's grain traders, SYNGENTA AG persisted instead, by developing yet another new variety of GMO corn seed this year, called DURACADE, and Beijing disapproves.

The grain traders are calling for SYNGENTA AG to cease and desist selling such products to U.S. farmers. Ever since January, 2014, U.S. corn exports have dried up to such an extent that they are down 85%, compared with last year according to the handwriting on the wall article in the April 11, 2014, WALL STREET JOURNAL, entitled, "U.S. Corn Exports to China Dry Up Over GMO Concerns".

SYNGENTA AG's crops are banned in their own country of SWITZERLAND. This episode shows what it costs the U.S. for having not yet banned them here. How foolish to not pay attention to the disapproval of the 66 other nations of the world and six-counties in the U.S.A. that ban or restrict GMO's. Yet we don't even label them. We let them invade our soil and then we try to export them. It makes no sense whatsoever for the Big Ag chemical pushers to remain blind, deaf, and dumb as to the rest of the world's rejection of their "fix".

It is indeed a watershed moment for our own grain traders to decry what is unfair to them as grain brokers. In a just economy SYNGENTA AG must realize their liabilities from selling their GMO seeds to U.S. farmers. **It is hugely important for AMERICA to face the fact that U.S. grain traders object that SYNGENTA AG and the other big seed companies sell farmers GMO seeds that are NOT approved in major markets. The Obama Administration should pay attention that our nation's grain commodity traders insist the seed companies must be held FULLY LIABLE. Enough is enough!**

The eyes of the world are upon AMERICA's big grain traders of CARGILL, ADM, and BUNGE LTD speaking Truth to Power because they took a righteous stand in deciding to restrict their purchase of SYNGENTA AG corn crops to help avoid further disruptions.

AMERICA's Big Traders are blasting their horns that the U.S. grain industry needs to trade products geared toward buyers. That's momentous. It behooves our nation's Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches to "Hear ye, Hear ye" that AMERICA's own *Wallstreet Traders* implicate the U.S. seed sellers for disrupting major world markets. Major markets such as CHINA and EUROPE enforce restrictions that censure and rejects shipments of GMOs which they have NOT approved.

Last year it was MONSANTO COMPANY's wheat. This year it is SYNGENTA AG's corn. What will the problematic seed that hurts the U.S. and is causative of U.S. farmer law suits. The patented GMO seeds and their legal contracts with U.S. farmers are the source of trouble. The Chemical Giants miss the mark for a fair and just economy for EARTH's global citizens. It's based on war-minds, NOT on friendship. That is a bad platform for an emergent World Economy. The Agrochemical Biotech Industry lobbies for *Bad Neighbor Farming practices*.

THE SOLUTION is that the precautionary food values of other countries must be respected or they bench our exports. It's plain to see that it is necessary to buy OUT of addiction to biological pesticide crop dependency. The giant chemical corporations market their chemical "fix" fairytale story about GMO's but that is a false messiah. The traders know GMO fairy tale stories are a failed experiment. It's time for AMERICA to change. Always change a losing game.

According to the UNITED NATIONS' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 40% of products that enter Big Ag's Industrial Agrochemical biological pesticide food chain are lost to decomposition while small-scale Family Farmers around the world are who actually feeds 70% of the planet with access to only 25% of its arable soil.

Did you know that, statistically, in OREGON, about 95% of all farms are owned by individuals or families and women are leaning in to farm. OREGON's Lady Farm Owners grow what feeds Man's belly and soul. Moms across AMERICA are replacing lawns with lettuces. You can get involved in the Homegrown Revolution. Grandmothers and others are taking up gardening hand trowels and calling on Global Man to lay down GMO spear swords.

(Sources: April 11, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Marketplace "U.S. Corn Exports to China Dry Up Over GMO Concerns" by Jacob Bunge, Chuin-Wei Yap, and Tony Dreibus; www.fairworldproject.org, Spring 2014, "Small-Scale Family Farming Supports Life", presentation to the European Commission (EC) conference in Brussels, by La Via Campesina (LVC); UN General Assembly declaration, "2014 the International Year of the Family Farmer"; 2014, ROGUE FLAVOR, YOUR GUIDE TO FRESH AND LOCAL FOOD IN SOUTHERN OREGON, "Did you Know?"; Issue 8, Spring 2014, FOR A BETTER WORLD publication; www.OurFamilyFarmsCoalition.org; www.MomsAcrossAmerica.com, An International Volunteer Coalition of Unstoppable Moms)

New Atmospheric Ozone Findings

New research shows that banned gases are being predominately emitted in the NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, and may be a byproduct of feedstock chemicals used to produce insecticides and/or solvent cleaners.

The **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**, a UNITED NATIONS environmental treaty, was ratified by 197 countries, because they all concurred that the planetary ozone layer is vulnerable to a range of long-lived synthetic chemicals. **The production of all CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFC's) were banned and shut down, in order to safeguard the high-altitude ozone that protects EARTH from dangerous ultraviolet radiation.**

Dr. Paul Newman Co-Chairs the global treaty's *Scientific Assessment Panel*. He is also Chief Atmospheric Scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MARYLAND. He indicates it is cause for ALARM that four man-made gases that were banned or phased out under global treaty have been discovered by new research.

Research led by a team of scientists from six-countries and Atmospheric Chemist Johannes Laube with the UNITED KINGDOM's University of East Anglia have found out about gases that are breaching the Montreal Protocol treaty. Dr. Laube and his colleagues in AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, and SWITZERLAND reported their findings in *Nature Geoscience*.

The report reveals that four industrial ozone-depleting gasses have been discovered endangering the ozone layer. Three of the four Industrial gases they found in the atmosphere are CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS and the other is a related HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBON. For example, CFC-113A is a byproduct from PYRETHROID chemical production that is used in insecticides. Atmospheric levels of CFC-113A doubled between 2010 and 2012. The alarm bell has rung!

(March 10, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Scientists Say Four New Gases Threaten The Ozone" by Robert Lee Hotz)

The METHANOSARCIANA microbe Hypothesis

Microbiologists claim that microbes rule the EARTH. Geophysicist, Dan Rothman found a lot of nickel sediment deposits in Siberian volcanic activity about 250 million years ago. He took his research to Evolution Biologist Gregory Fournier at MIT, who had published a METHANOSARCINA paper in 2008 showing gene transfer allowed METHANOSARCIANA to efficiently produce METHANE.

Microbial processes grew carbon levels in a rapid upward curve that continued for 20,000 years the scientists suggest because geologic records show a sharp carbon dioxide uptake that caused the oceans to acidify, and earth to heat up.

The METHANOSARCINA microbe needs nickel to turn acetate into METHANE. *Fournier* dated the gene transfer and found it also occurred about 250 million years ago so the methane-spewing microbe called METHANOSARCINA, changed the chemistry of EARTH.

The global warming resulted in end-Permian extinction 252 million years ago, like a thief in the night, long before the dinosaurs. This hypothesis was published in PNAS by researchers from MASSACHUSETTES Institute of Technology and by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Nanjing, CHINA.

(Sources: April 3, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "End-Permian Extinction Microbes killed nearly everything" by LOS ANGELES TIMES; April 3, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Microbes May have Spurred Mass Extinction" by Deborah Netburn, LOS ANGELES TIMES)

The Air Controllers

The World Health Organization (WHO) claims air pollution in ASIA accounts for the largest number of heart disease and strokes. Indoor and outdoor air particulates are Man's Number One health risk. Since 2.9 billion live in homes that use dung, coal, or wood as fuel to cook food.

WHO's data for 2012 shows Air pollution from INDOOR COOKING STOVES that burned biomass, coal, dung, charcoal, or wood killed 4.3 million. Another 3.7 million were killed by air pollution from VEHICLES and INDUSTRIALIZATION. **That's seven million deaths YEARLY.**

Man can easily switch over to the vegan raw food diet and ride bicycles. But solving Industrialization calls for hardcore simplification of global lifestyles.

(Source: March 26, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "WHO report says air pollution linked to 1 in 5 deaths worldwide", by Tony Barboza, LOS ANGELES TIMES)

The Sunshine Does Not Favor One Nation Above Another

Companies pushing environmentally cleaner technology met in San Francisco to display their products at the *Cleantech Forum*. Some startups are using crowd-sourcing, crowd-funding, or both to launch. For example, *Mosaic* is an Oakland, CALIFORNIA, company that raises money on the Internet to finance rooftop solar-panel projects.

ISRAEL and the MIDDLE EAST are already desalinating water to mitigate drought. AMERICA could play catch-up. In *Fresno County*, CALIFORNIA, a solar powered desalination system called the *Water FX* solar thermal desalination plant turns 14,000 gallons a day of salty, contaminated irrigation runoff into ultra-pure for the *Panoche Water and Drainage District*. *Aaron Mandell*, Co-founder of *Water FX*, hops the company may pump out 2 million gallons of purified water daily by next year, and 20 million gallons in five years.

According to *Bruce Marlow*, Chief Consultant for *Water FX*, their steam condensation distilled water is less expensive to produce than the \$1 billion conventional operation being built near *San Diego*, CALIFORNIA, that will desalinate water using reverse osmosis. *Water FX's* on cost \$1 million in state grants to build last summer.

(Sources: March 10, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Corporate News, "Helping the Environment: Big Data" by Cassandra Sweet; March 18, 2014, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, "Purifying water by using the sun", by Kevin Fagan, kfagan@sfchronicle.com)

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GERMANY's Cartel

Believe it or not the German cartel claimed there was collusion among breweries and fined over half of EUROPE'S beer market a combined \$318.9 million. The cartel decision is being appealed because breweries deny price collusion.

(Source: April 3, 2014, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*German Cartel Office Fines More Brewers*" by Friedrich Geiger)

The Water is Our Friend

Newly proposed CLEAN WATER ACT clarifications of which waters are under federal oversight would clarify protections for streams and wetlands. *It's Good News* that the *Obama Administration*, the *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*, and the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* are jointly seeking changes to the *Supreme Court's 2006 Rapanos* ruling, so that the EPA can enforce federal regulations based on a large scientific study.

Actually the *Rapanos* ruling left room for the government to enforce safeguards under THE CLEAN WATER ACT, if scientific analysis could show a link between pollution of water upstream and effects downstream.

(Source: March 26, 2014, THE WALL STREETJOURNAL, "*EPA Proposal to Cover More Waterways*" by Alicia Mundy)

Port of Brookings Harbor, OREGON

Did you know that crab fishermen use mink carcasses as bait to catch crabs. Just suppose the animal rights activists find that out.

A crabber was cited for dumping 5,000 pounds of rotten mink carcasses into the *Port of Brookings*, according to the April 8, 2014 News Briefs in the MAIL TRIBUNE. *Charles Case* faces a felony for the pollution charge in *Curry County Circuit Court*.

Can you imagine how stinky the smell was for those poor workers who fetched those bloated, floating carcasses out of the harbor. The seaside villages of Brookings and Brookings Harbor are OREGON's orphaned towns. The eyes of the world are upon SOUTHERN OREGON's abandonment and neglect of its sister CURRY COUNTY.

The Shifting Plates

Movements of the EARTH's tectonic plates are the world's deadliest and most damaging natural disasters. Maybe you haven't noticed the *Ring of Fire* yet. *Yahoo News* reported a magnitude 8.2 earthquake off the coast of the *Port of Iquique*, CHILE, on April 2, 2014. According to *Reuters*, tsunami waves should more accurately be called "*Sea Uplifts*". A powerful 7.8 aftershock shook in the same area late the next night with a second tsunami sea uplift. CHILE has strict building codes, mandatory evacuations, and emergency preparedness that sets a global example.

(Sources: April 2, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Magnitude 8.2 quake hits Northern Chile*", Santiago, Chile; April 3, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "*8.29 in Chile Kills only 6*", and April 3, 2014 MAIL TRIBUNE "*7.8-magnitude aftershock quake hits Chile on Coast*", IQUIQUE, Chile)

The Ocean Tides and Waves

In 2008 NORTHERN IRELAND had the first grid connected to a tidal flow generator, FRANCE's *Alstrom SA* is developing technologies to make electricity from the sea, and GERMANY's *Siemens AG* is a big investor in wave and tidal power. *Siemens AG* hopes tidal currents shall someday power 250 million households. The EUROPEAN UNION led the way and now CHINA is stepping up with surface floats, underwater turbines, and systems of differences in water temperature.

(Source: April 1, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*China's Wager: Pulling energy from the ocean*", by Simon Hall)

The Swiss Visionaries

The *Basic Income Initiative* group gathered over 100,000 petition signatures that SWITZERLAND's Parliament is expected to vote on this year.

In SWITZERLAND the unemployment rate is a mere 3%. According to *Daniel Straub*, Co-Founder of the initiative, each resident would be paid a basic living wage of the equivalent of \$2,000 a month, whether employed or not. Every employee would be paid by their employer the minimum \$2,000 a month at the very least.

Imagine being born into a SWISS society that welcomes and cares for you, asks you what you want to do with your life, what your calling is, and meets all your basic needs, so that you have the freedom to achieve your dreams. Imagine that atmosphere and how it would feel.

(Source: 2014, Issue 12, ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESS)

Pop Quiz

What are your *Mayor and City Council* doing about how Climate Change will affect your city?

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